



LA PLATA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

Subject: Temporary Closure of the Animas River

Date/Time: August 6, 2015 4:00 p.m.

Source: Dan Bender, LPCSO PIO Desk: 970-382-7026

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La Plata County Sheriff's Office 742 Turner Drive Durango, Colorado 81303

Narrative: Effective Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 3:00 p.m., La Plata County Sheriff Sean Smith issued an order pursuant to CRS 33-13-111 and 112, closing the Animas River to all watercraft including canoes, kayaks, tubes, rafts and other flotation devices from the north County line (San Juan County, Colorado) to the south County line (at the Colorado/New Mexico State line) until further notice. Furthermore, all such watercraft must be removed from the Animas River within the locations cited above.

"This decision was made in the interest of public health after consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Colorado Department of Health and Environment, San Juan Basin Health Department and representatives of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe," advised Sheriff Sean Smith. "This Order shall remain in effect until it is determined that the river is safe. EPA test results of the Animas River are expected within 24-48 hours, and the Order will be re-evaluated at that time."

The City of Durango and La Plata County Sheriff's Office are posting notices along the Animas River to notify citizens.

A Call Center has been set up for the public at 970-385-8700. As additional information is received, it will be posted to the La Plata County website at <http://www.co.laplata.co.us/emergency>, San Juan Basin Health Department's Website at www.sjbhd.org, La Plata County Government Facebook and San Juan Basin Health Department Facebook.

End Release.